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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/683,948	03/06/2002	Perry Robinson MacNeille	201-0995 JMS	7599

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EXAMINER

TRAN, TUAN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2682

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/683,948

Applicant(s)

MACNEILLE ET AL.

Examiner

Tuan A Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dwyer (5,970,400) in view of Marshall et al. (2002/0094797).

Regarding claims 9-11, Dwyer discloses a plurality of communication system 450, 451 (see fig. 4), each communication system comprising frequency hopping spread spectrum (FHSS) transceiver 408 receiving a synchronizing pulse per second (PPS) signal derived from a global positioning system 404, whereby the timing and the hopping sequence in each of the communication systems 450, 451 are synchronized based on the PPS signal (See fig. 4 and col. 11 lines 23-60, col. 16 line 55 to col. 17 line 3). However, Dwyer does not mention that: the FHSS transceiver is a Bluetooth transceiver and a plurality of piconets (scatternet) are formed between the plurality of communication systems wherein the piconet forming process including: transmitting inquiry packets from at least one communication system based on the determined frequency hopping pattern at a plurality of inquiry times, listening for inquiry packets in at least one of the plurality of communication systems at the plurality of inquiry times, and establishing a network between the at least of communication system transmitting

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inquiry packets and at least one communication system listening for inquiry packets if at least one communication system listening for inquiry packets receives an inquiry packet from the at least communication system transmitting inquiry packets; and the communication system for automotive vehicle. Marshall teaches a piconet forming process between a plurality of Bluetooth units utilized FHSS protocol, including: transmitting inquiry packets from at least one Bluetooth unit based on the determined frequency hopping pattern at a plurality of inquiry times, listening for inquiry packets in at least one of the plurality of Bluetooth units at the plurality of inquiry times, and establishing a network between the at least of Bluetooth unit transmitting inquiry packets and at least one Bluetooth unit listening for inquiry packets if at least one Bluetooth unit listening for inquiry packets receives an inquiry packet from the at least Bluetooth unit transmitting inquiry packets (See figs. 4-5, page 4 [0057] to page 5 [0061]). Since it is well known in the art that number of devices participating in a piconet limits to seven (7) and a device can participate in different piconets; therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the Marshall's teachings in forming a plurality of piconets (devices belonging to a piconet are inherently synchronized with each other) between the plurality of communication systems configured with Bluetooth transceivers (the communication system can participating in different piconets) for the advantage of sharing information between communication systems that are within range. Further, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

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made to use the communication system in automotive vehicle for the advantage of expanding the application of the system to various types of equipments.

Claims 5-6 and 8 are rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claims 9-11, as method.

Claims 1-2 and 4 are rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claims 9-11.

Regarding claim 12, Dwyer & Marshall disclose as cited in claim 9. The communication system as disclosed by Dwyer & Marshall inherently synchronously switching between each piconet since the communication system can participate & synchronizing with others in different piconets.

Claims 3 is rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim 12.

Claim 7 is rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim 12, as method.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Hoffberg (6,252,544) ; Hellum et al. (6,104,729) ; Grell et al. (5,815,538) ; Stobart (2001/0017864) ; Kuhl (2004/0125821).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tuan Tran** whose telephone number is **(703) 605-4255**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Vivian Chin**, can be reached at **(703) 308-6739**.

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

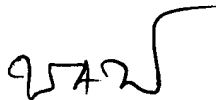
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



Tuan Tran

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LEE NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER